Stanley

Stanley Urban District Council

STANLEY,

January 30th, 1911.

GENTLEMEN,

Owing to the death of the Medical Officer of Health I have not the verbal information which would enable me to enlarge upon some of the main points in this Report, but I have endeavoured to give you the broad facts from the notes which I have received in respect (i.) to the Factory and Workshops Acts, (ii.) Sanitary State, (iii.) Amount of Sickness due to Zymotic Diseases, and (iv.) Vital Statistics for the year 1910. Although all factories, trades, and general sanitary condition of the inhabitants come under the supervision of your Council, the coal mines, upon which the district is practically dependent, are governed by their own special Acts. In spite of certain trade disputes, the year has been a fairly prosperous one for the district, the assistance of your Board never having been required.

Factory and Workshops Act.—This Act requires the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector to see that ventilation is sufficient, that there are ready means of exit, no overcrowding, and the necessary sanitary additions. There are 38 workshops and 17 factories in the district. The result of the various inspections was quite satisfactory, there being only two minor cases which required attention, and this was given as soon as possible. In none of the works is there any material employed which could be said to be injurious to health.

Surveyor's and Inspector's Department.—The activity in the building trade was continued throughout the past year, 311 new houses were built, of which 291 were self-contained, having six, five, four, or three rooms respectively, and 10 tenemented houses with three rooms and scullery downstairs and four rooms and scullery upstairs, with separate yards for each tenement.

Old Property.—The majority of houses which come under this heading were built before any Authority exercised control. Those which require attention are as follows:—

HIGH STREET, RIGHT SIDE.—The alterations to this row of houses were interrupted owing to the closing of the adjoining colliery. However, they are again being attended to, and the necessary repairs are being carried out.

The adjoining 12 houses in SAND STREET are awaiting structural alterations and repairs, together with the erection of new out-offices, which the owners or lessees have undertaken to carry out.

BUSTY STREET, consisting of 12 houses; WOOD STREET, 16 houses (all built back to back); and adjoining this street six single houses, have all been closed, as it was considered that no alterations or additions would render them habitable.

HAVANNAH.—In the case of houses in this locality known as George Street and Alfred Street, the improvements needed to make the houses habitable are:—The addition of a room, and the making of back doors to provide through ventilation, and also alterations are needed in the out-offices. With regard to Scott Street, however, the above alterations are not possible, owing to the lack of space.

SOUTH TANFIELD.—These houses are of a modern type, and are in good condition, the objection to them being their out-offices.

SOUTH MOOR.—The Old Property at South Moor has been brought under the notice of your Council for the past two years, but so far no steps have been taken to remedy the defects. There are (i.) Quaking Houses, consisting of 50 houses; (ii.) two rows at High South Moor with 20 houses; (iii.) the Barracks 19 houses. These are all built after the same style, having one room above and one room below, with a step-ladder to reach the upper, which is not ceiled, except it is done by the occupiers, who make use of various materials, such as wood, paper, and canvas. There are no back doors, and consequently there is no through ventilation, excepting such as is gained by means of a small window in the pantry. The sanitary state of these houses is most unsatisfactory. The High Rows, South Moor, are in many cases damp, and this is more especially noticeable in the cases of the pantries. There is not the slightest doubt that this could be remedied if the owners would alter the premises by providing an additional room, abolishing the present pantries, and also make a good through ventilation by means of a back door.

In PINE and POPLAR STREETS the provision of cemented yards, with suitable conveniences, would mean a considerable improvement to the premises.

With regard to the improvements carried out to the Old Property in the district, under the powers conferred on your Authority by the adoption of Parts 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act of 1907, which came into operation in this district on May 26th, 1909, notices have been served with respect to all unpaved and defectively paved yards in this district. The unsuitable weather has prevented the repairs being carried out in some cases. In all there have been 222 informal and 291 formal notices served by your Council for the abatement of petty nuisances. In 239 cases the notices have been complied with, and the nuisance abated. During the year 18 ashpit-privies have been converted into ash-closets. At present in the district there are 437 water-closets, 2,294 ash-closets, and 1,393 ashpit-privies.

(1) The number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.	40
(2) The number of dwelling-houses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	40
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders.	40
(4) The number of closing orders made.	34. The remaining six are receiving further attention, with a view to coming to satisfactory arrangements with the owners.
(5) The number of dwelling-houses, the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders.	None.
(6) The number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.	None.
(7) A general character of the defects found to exist.	General dampness, unceiled and dilapidated roofs, decayed walls and timber, etc.

Scavenging and Removal of Refuse.—This work is carried out by Contractors, under the supervision of your Inspector. It is done in a very satisfactory manner, and care is taken that the depositing of the refuse creates no nuisance.

Sewage Disposal.—The two out-fall works are at West Shield Row and South Moor. Owing to the large increase in population the works at South Moor are inadequate. This, however, will be fully met by the new works to be constructed on a site east of Hustle Down. Plans for this new installation are now being prepared, and the work will be proceeded with at an early date.

Slaughter-Houses.—The eight slaughter-houses in this district are in a generally satisfactory condition, and care is taken to comply with your Bye-laws, the removal of offal being systematically carried out.

Milk Supply.—The milk supply is good. In the district there are eight milk purveyors and 10 cowkeepers. The latter are either farmers or tenants of land of sufficient quantity to prevent the cows being classified as stall-fed. More care is being exercised with regard to the ventilation and the provision of clean straw for bedding.

Water Supply.—The Weardale and Consett Water Company provide the district with an abundant and excellent water supply. Two houses in East Kyo have had the water laid on—these formerly procured their water from a neighbouring well.

Lodging-Houses.—There is only one licensed lodging-house in the district, and this is kept in a cleanly condition and is conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Sickness from Zymotic Diseases.—The number of cases of notifiable diseases reported during the past year shows a marked decrease on the preceding year. There were 152 cases last year, as against 255 the year before. The following diseases made up the year's total, viz.:—95 of Scarlatina, 31 of Diphtheria, 16 of Enteric Fever, 2 of Puerperal Fever, and 8 of Erysipelas.

SCARLATINA.—There were 95 cases of this disease reported during the past year, while in the preceding year there were 189 reported—practically half the number. Probably a good part of this decrease might be placed to the credit of enforced removal of patients where complete isolation is not possible.

DIPHTHERIA.—Thirty-five cases were reported this year, a reduction of 14 on the previous year. This decrease might be attributed to the same cause as the decrease in Scarlatina.

ENTERIC FEVER.—There were 16 cases of Enteric Fever notified during the past year. This is an increase of six on the year before. Excluding a few isolated cases, of which the source of infection could not be traced upon inquiry, the majority of cases occurred in the months of May, June, and July. These were all traced, and the infection was found to have been received from the eating of mussels. A warning was issued by your Inspector, cautioning the public against the danger of eating mussels, and this proved beneficial.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—MEASLES.—There were no serious outbreaks of Measles during the past year. The mortality was very light.

WHOOPING COUGH.—The same may be said of Whooping Cough as of Measles.

DIARRHŒA and EPIDEMIC ENTERITIS were not prevalent during the summer months, but resulted in only three deaths.

Vital Statistics.—The number of births and deaths registered during the year amounted to 849 of the former and 306 of the latter, giving a birth-rate of 36·12 and a death-rate of 13·02 per 1,000, estimating the population at 23,500 at the end of June. The birth-rate is above and the death-rate considerably below the county average. The mortality from Zymotic Diseases was as follows:—Scarlatina, 6; Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup), 3; Entertic Fever, 3; Measles, 2; Whooping Cough, 1; Diarrhœa (including Epidemic Enteritis), 3; making a total of 18.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Although the total number of deaths under one year is in excess of the number for the previous year, yet, owing to the increase in population, the death-rate per 1,000 births is slightly lower. However, it is still above the average for the county. Out of a total of 117, no fewer than 32 were due to Premature Birth, 19 were due to Debility and Marasmus and 10 to Congenital Defects; a total of 61, or more than half of the whole number of deaths. Only two deaths were due to infectious diseases, namely, one each from Measles and Whooping Cough.

Respiratory Diseases accounted for 15 deaths, viz.:—Bronchitis 7, and Pneumonia 8. Seventeen deaths were from Tubercular Diseases.

The Health Visitors' work is very satisfactory. The mothers seem ready and willing to accept good advice as to the dieting and general condition of the children.

The following table gives the averages of births and deaths for the county in comparison with those of the district:—

	COUNTY.	STANLEY.
Birth-rate (per 1,000 population)	34.4	36·12
Death-rate ,, ,, ...	15·1	13·02
Zymotic Death-rate ,, ...	1·62	0·76
Infantile Mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	126	137·8
Smallpox (per 1,000 population)	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever ,, ,, ...	0·08	0·25
Diphtheria and Membraneous Crop	0·17	0·12
Enteric Fever	0·09	0·12
Measles	0.20	0·08
Whooping Cough	0·25	0·04
Diarrhœa	0·81	0·12
Phthisis	0·88	0·76
Other Tubercular Diseases	0·65	1·23
Acute Respiratory Diseases	2·42	1·78

For further particulars, see Government schedules attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. BENSON,

Medical Officer pro. tem.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

STANLEY.

TABLE I.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	13,200	512	38.8	81	156	215	16.3			7	222	17
1901	13,600	564	41.5	96	107.2	246	18			10	256	18.8
1902	14,300	556	39	112	201.1	266	18.6			6	272	18.8
1903	15,500	623	40	111	176.5	267	17			14	281	18
1904	17,000	636	37.41	109	171.5	274	16.1			9	283	16.5
1905	17,500	688	39.3	114	165.7	255	14.5			12	267	15.2
1906	18,300	758	40.9	122	160.95	272	14.9			13	285	15.6
1907	19,000	715	37.6	127	177.6	285	15			8	293	15.42
1908	20,500	816	39.8	156	191.17	349	17.02			23	372	18.14
1909	21,500	775	36.04	107	138.06	476	22.13			28	504	23.44
Averages for years 1900—1909.	17,040	664	39.03	113	154.57	290	16.95			13	305	17.69
1910.	23,500	849	36.12	117	137.8	280	11.91			26	306	13.02

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages, 13,554. Number of inhabited houses, 2,302. Average number of persons per house, 6.7—At Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres, 3,593.

TABLE III.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	AT AGES—YEARS.							Number of Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	31		8	14	3	6		31
Erysipelas	8				3	5		
Scarlet Fever	95	1	28	63	2		1	89
Enteric Fever	16			2	2	12		16
Puerperal Fever	2				1	1		
TOTALS	152	1	36	79	11	24	1	136

TABLE IV.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death, during the Year 1910.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in the whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	At all ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Measles	2	1	1					
Scarlet Fever	6		3	3				
Whooping-cough	1	1						
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup....	3		3					
Enteric Fever	3				1	2		
Diarrhœa	3	1	2					
Enteritis	1	1						
Gastritis	1					1		
Puerperal Fever	2					2		
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18		1	1	4	12		
Other Tuberculous Diseases	30	17	10	2	1			
Cancer, malignant disease	9					4	5	
Bronchitis	19	7	1			5	6	
Pneumonia	20	8	6		2	1	3	
Pleurisy	1					1		
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	1	1					
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	5					4	1	
Premature Birth	32	32						
Diseases & Accidents of Parturition	2				1	1		
Heart Diseases	31			1	2	21	7	
Accidents	5		1		2	2		
Suicides	2					2		
All other causes	108	48	6	1	3	29	21	
All causes	306	117	35	8	16	87	43	

TABLE V.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY FOR THE YEAR 1910.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1—2 Months.	2—3 Months.	3—4 Months.	4—5 Months.	5—6 Months.	6—7 Months.	7—8 Months.	8—9 Months.	9—10 Months.	10—11 Months.	11—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Measles												1					1
Whooping-cough											1						1
Diarrhœa, all forms									1								1
Enteritis														1			1
Gastritis						1					1						2
Premature Birth	25	3	3		31	1											32
Congenital Defects	5	2	1	1	9					1							10
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	11	1	3		15	2				1			1				19
Tuberculous Meningitis....											1						1
Tuberculous Peritonitis						2	1	1	1	1	1	1			3	1	12
Other Tuberculous Diseases							1	1			1		1				4
Convulsions	1	1		1	3		1	1	2		1					1	9
Bronchitis			1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1				7
Pneumonia							2				1	1	2	1		1	8
Other Causes		2		1	3	3					2					1	9
	42	9	8	3	62	10	6	4	5	4	9	3	5	2	3	4	117

Births in the year: Legitimate, 834; illegitimate, 15. Deaths in the year of: Legitimate infants, 113; illegitimate infants, 4.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 306. Population, estimated to middle of 1910, 23,500.

Stanley Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

STANLEY,

January 30th, 1911.